

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 00656 020809Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 INR-10
ABF-01 MMO-01 /051 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1850
INFO AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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STADIS //

FOR ASST SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, XA
SUBJ: FOOD AID FOR AFRICA

REF: STATE 82578

1. I HAVE TAKEN THIS LONG IN RESPONDING TO YOUR
REQUEST FOR COMMENTS IN ORDER TO AWAIT THE ARRIVAL
OF A SENIOR AID REGIONAL OFFICER WHO SPENT LAST WEEK
WITH US. MALAWI IS, FIRST OF ALL, VIRTUALLY SELF-
SUFFICIENT IN FOOD AND THERE IS LITTLE THAT OUR PL-480
PROGRAM COULD DO TO ALLEVIATE THE MINOR IMBALANCE
OF DISTRIBUTION. HOWEVER, DISCUSSIONS WITH TED MORSE
OF AID HAVE GENERATED SOME THOUGHT OF USING FOOD AID
FOR LARGER SELF-HELP PROJECTS HERE WHERE WORKERS
VOLUNTARILY LEAVE THE FIELDS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AT
A TIME.

2. MALAWI HAS HAD A VERY SUCCESSFUL GRAVITY-FLOW
WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM INTRODUCED IN VARIOUS AREAS OF
THE POPULATION SO THAT NOW OVER 10 PERCENT OF THE
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COUNTRY RECEIVES CLEAN WATER BY THIS MEANS. IN
ORDER TO BUILD THESE SYSTEMS, MALAWI ORGANIZED A
SELF-HELP PROGRAM SO THAT THE VILLAGERS WHO EXPECTED
TO BE THE RECIPIENTS PROVIDED THE LABOR FOR DIGGING
THE TRENCHES AND HELPING IN OTHER ASPECTS OF INSTALLA-
TION. THERE WILL BE SEVERAL MORE OF THESE PROJECTS
WHICH WILL IN THE END, IT IS HOPED, ACCOMMODATE 90 PERCENT

OF THE POPULATION AND, IF ALL GOES WELL IN WASHINGTON
WITH OUR REVITALIZED AID PROGRAM, WE MAY WELL WISH TO
PARTICIPATE WITH FUNDS AND UTILIZE PL-480 FOOD TO
COMPENSATE FOR THE WORKERS' TIME AWAY FROM THEIR
FIELDS. IN ADDITION, WE ARE IN THE FIRST STAGES
OF THINKING ABOUT A SECONDARY ROAD CONSTRUCTION
PROGRAM IN THE 1980S WHICH WOULD ALSO BE BASED
ON THE SELF-HELP CONCEPT. PL-480 AID COULD BE USED
THERE AS WELL TO COMPENSATE FOR THE WORKERS.
3. MALAWI HAS DONE WELL IN ITS SELF-HELP TYPE OF
PROGRAM AND PL-480 AID, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD PROBABLY BE
MINOR COMPARED TO THAT WHICH WE OFFER TO OTHER
COUNTRIES, COULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT HERE.
STEVENSON

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Message Attributes

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